SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) As per Annual Survey of Industries 1997-98 the total number of Food Processing Units in the factory sector in the Country were 31415, out of which 2888 units are located in the Eastern including the North East. In addition to this 323 Food Processing and Training Centres have been set up in the Country under the Plan Assistance of this Department so far, out of this 143 Centres have been set up in the Eastern States. Owing to the Food Processing being high risk and low margin, there is general reluctance amongst entrepreneurs to set up industries in this sector. The number of units in the Food Processing Sector set up in the Eastern States (Including Orissa) is proportionately less. In order to boost the setting up of these industries, the Department operates a number of Plan Schemes to provide assistance and act as catalyst to facilitate setting up of such units by State/Cooperative/Private Agencies all over the Country including the Eastern States.

Modification in Agriculture Insurance Scheme

1528. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for changes in the Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when would it be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, the new Scheme i.e. National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) provides for a review after one year of its implementation and therefore, changes if any, on the basis of experience can be considered for incorporation in the scheme from the next year.

Scheme for Amelioration of Acid Soils

1529. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for release of financial assistance under the Centrally-sponsored scheme for amelioration of acid soils and reclamation of saline including coastal saline